

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of Hawaii

FILED IN THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF HAWAII  
Aug 09, 2023  
Lucy H. Carrillo, Clerk of Court

In the Matter of the Search of

(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)

Multicolored cardboard parcel weighing 6.60 pounds.  
Package further Identified by a red-inked numeral 23193  
which is 1.25 inches in length.

Case No.: 23-1216RT

APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (*identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location*): See Attached Affidavit

located in the Honolulu District of HAWAII, there is now concealed (*identify the person or describe the property to be seized*):

See Attached Affidavit

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (*check one or more*):

- ☐ evidence of a crime;  
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;  
☐ property design for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;  
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

**Code Section**

Title 7 United States code, Section 7702 et. seq.

**Offense Description**

The application is based on these facts:

See Attached Affidavit

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.  
☐ Delayed notice of \_\_\_\_\_ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: \_\_\_\_\_) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Jon Shimabukuro  
Applicant's signature

Jon Shimabukuro, Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer

Printed name and title

Sworn to me telephonically and signed by me pursuant to Fed.R.Crim.P.4.1 and 4(d),

Date: 8/9/2023

City and State: Honolulu, Hawaii



Rom A. Trader

Rom A. Trader  
United States Magistrate Judge

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF SEARCH WARRANT

The undersigned, being duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

A. That he/she is a duly authorized federal law enforcement agent currently assigned to the Honolulu Postal Facility identified further by name \*(1), title \*(2), agency \*(3), and \*(4) years of experience enforcing federal agricultural quarantine laws as follows:

- \*1. JON SHIMABUKURO
- \*2. PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE OFFICER
- \*3. ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
- \*4. 6

B. That the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for the enforcement of the Plant Quarantine Act (7 U.S.C. 151-165 and 167) and the Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150aa-150jj) and the regulations promulgated there under. The purpose of these laws is to prevent the spread of dangerous plant diseases and insect infestations that are new to or not widely prevalent or distributed within or throughout the United States.

C. That the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service detector dog handler identified below \*(5) informed your affiant on the date \*(6) indicated below that he/she obtained a parcel now identified below \*(7) which was being sent through the U.S. Mail to a place in the United States outside the state of Hawaii and which does not bear any marking, certificate or limited permit indicating that it has been certified for shipment by APHIS, as required by 7 CFR 318.13.

The handler advised me that the handler had the agriculture detector dog named below \*(8) conduct an exterior examination of the above described parcel. The dog handler advised that when the dog examined the parcel it alerted. The dog handler further advised that the dog alert indicates that the package contains one or more of the items (1) through (4) described in the attached warrant which are items subject to the above cited regulation. The dog handler further advised me that after the detector dog alerted the handler uniquely identified said parcel by affixing an individualized red inked number and signing his/her name under the individualized number.

\*5. Dennis LI

\*6. 8/8/2023

\*7. Multicolored cardboard parcel weighing 6.60 lbs. which is now being held in the APHIS office, Room 305 of the main Honolulu Post Office. Said package is further identified by a red-inked numeral 23193 which is 1 1/4 inches in length and signed on a red-inked line below such number by Dennis LI, the person who affixed such identification.

\*8. GEORGIA

D. That your affiant advises that the qualifications of the above named dog handler and detector dog or as more fully described in Attachment A which is attached hereto and is incorporated by reference herein.

E. That your affiant advises that 7 U.S.C.161 and 163 makes it a misdemeanor to violate 7CFR 318.13 which prohibits moving or offering for shipment to and point in the United States outside Hawaii any fresh fruit or vegetable or other regulated article unless properly certified by APHIS and in a properly marked container.

F. That your affiant advises that in recent years numerous first class parcels were damaged in the mails thereby revealing their contents, and have been found to be moving in violation of the above cited laws and regulation. Over 40 of these first class parcels contained one or more of the following items (1) through (4) described in the attached warrant and found to be infested with insect pests found in Hawaii but not in other states of the United States. The insects found in any one of the above parcels could be responsible for a pest outbreak similar to those that have cost over \$200,000,000 in federal funds to eradicate in the years since 1976.

G. That based on the facts set forth in this Affidavit, your affiant submits there is probable cause to believe that regulated articles are being concealed in the parcel described and seeks the issuance of a search warrant, directing a search of the parcel as described in paragraph C and seizure of any regulated items contained therein.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

*Jon Shimabukuro*  
PPQ Officer

Sworn to me telephonically and signed by me pursuant to Fed.R.Crim.P.4.1 and 4(d)  
this 9th day of August 2023.



*Rom A. Trader*  
Rom A. Trader  
United States Magistrate Judge

## ATTACHMENT A

Dennis Li is a Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist Canine Officer employed by the United States Department of Agriculture, who has received special training and is experienced in the detection and identification of regulated and prohibited agricultural products. Officer Li also went through a specialized training course as a dog handler in Newnan, Georgia in 2015.

Officer Li is both the trainer and handler for agricultural detector dog “Georgia”. In 2015, Georgia was trained during a 10 week course at the National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia, where she received special training in the identification of various agricultural products by the detection of their distinctive odors. Once such odors are detected, Georgia was taught to “alert” Officer Li. The training Georgia received included the detection of fresh fruits and vegetables, and plant materials in different types of containers, such as baggage, parcels, mail, and cargo.

Officer Li has been Georgia’s handler since April 2015. Under Officer Li’s handling, Georgia has undergone weekly training to gain proficiency in the detection of the agricultural items mentioned above. In order to pass this training, Georgia has had to correctly identify the odors of fresh fruits and vegetables, and plant materials at a minimum of twenty consecutive times.

Since July 2015, Georgia has successfully identified fresh fruits and vegetables, and plant materials in various containers. Georgia has correctly identified agricultural products 90% or more of the time.

Officer Li believes that Georgia has been reliable both in training and on the job in detecting the odors of fresh fruits and vegetables, and plant materials.